

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Resources and Personnel Policy**AGREEMENT WITH EAST MIDLANDS HOUSING GROUP / QUANTUM PARTNERSHIPS TO SECURE HOMES ENGLAND FUNDING****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for the Council to enter into contract with Quantum partnership and Homes England to secure grant funding to deliver new Council homes on several sites in the borough.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is to RESOLVE that;

- 1) The Council enters into contract with Homes England, East Midlands Housing Group and the Quantum partnership to secure subsidy for new schemes provided through the Housing Delivery Plan and;**
- 2) a delegation be made to Broxtowe's Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 officer, in consultation with the portfolio holders for Housing and Resources and Personnel Policy to progress all key approvals relating to the contract.**

3. Detail

Housing Committee approved a report in November 2020 for Broxtowe to reapply to Homes England for investment partner status in order to access grant funding from the Affordable Homes Programme (2021-2026), to deliver the Council's new build housing programme as per the approved Housing Delivery Plan. Following consultation with Homes England in 2021 it was agreed that Broxtowe would be better placed to join an existing consortium headed up by a housing association which is an investment partner of Homes England in order to access the grant funding.

In 2021 the Council tendered for a local Housing Association with Homes England Investment partner status, to assist the Council in securing Homes England funding. Two Housing associations submitted bids, and East Midlands Housing group were the successful tenderer.

In November 2022 a bid was made through East Midlands Housing group for the first 4 sites to access Homes England funding (see confidential appendix, agenda item 12.1). The bid was approved and will allow Broxtowe to access over an initial pot of £1.5 in grant funding for the schemes

In order to receive the grant funding, the Council is required to enter into an agreement with the East Midlands Quantum Consortium and Homes England.

By joining the consortium and entering into the relevant agreements, the Council can access grant funding and charge affordable rents on grant funded schemes

and non-grant funded section 106 sites (as per the Council's approved rent setting policy).

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26, as considered elsewhere on this agenda, includes provision for £1.5m of Homes England grant funding towards the Housing Delivery Plan new build programme. The business cases for the respective sites also assumes, where applicable, the ability to charge affordable rents on grant funded schemes and non-grant funded section 106 sites as per the Council's approved Rent Setting Policy.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council can enter into the grant funding arrangements with East Midland Quantum Consortium and Homes England using its general power of competence under the Localism Act 2011. Legal Services will provide advice on the detail of the contract.

All works, goods and services required to deliver the schemes must be procured by the Council in strict compliance with the Public regulations 2015 and the Council's financial regulations.

Full title reports have already been provided by Legal services to ensure there are no covenants or issues affecting the development of the schemes.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows.

Not applicable

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Not applicable.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Not required as this is not a change to policy.

10. Background Papers

Nil